Remarks:

Claims 2-4, and 12-15 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 18, 20, and 24 have been amended.

Claims 5-9, 16, 18-22, 24, and 29 remain pending.

Claim 20 was objected to for informality. Claim 20 has been amended to

clarify that which is being claimed.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 16, 18-20, and 24 stand rejected as being unpatentable over

Morandotti et al. (US Patent 5,289,211) in view of Kumada et al. (US Patent

5,097,248).

Independent Claims 5, 6, 9, 18, 20, and 24 have each been amended to recite

that at least one of the electrodes "provides a hollow interior that the printing fluid

passes through" for example as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 5 of the present patent

application. Neither Morandotti et al. and/or Kumada et al., alone or in combination,

disclose or even reasonably suggest a printing fluid detector having an electrode

with a hollow interior that the printing fluid passes through. Thus, for at least these

reasons Claims 5, 6, 9, 16, 18-20, and 24 are patentable over the cited art.

Claims 7-8, 21-22, and 29 stand rejected as being unpatentable over

Morandotti et al. (US Patent 5,289,211) in view of Kumada et al. (US Patent

5,097,248) and in further view of Oka (US Patent 5,821,309).

Claims 7 and 8 depend from independent Claim 6, Claims 21 and 22 depend

from independent Claim 20, and Claim 29 depends from independent Claim 16.

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Independent Claims 6, 16 and 20 have each been amended to recite that at least

one of the electrodes "provides a hollow interior that the printing fluid passes

through". Neither Morandotti et al., Kumada et al., and/or Oka, alone or in

combination, disclose or even reasonably suggest a printing fluid detector having an

electrode with a hollow interior that the printing fluid passes through. Thus, for at

least these reasons Claims 7-8, 21-22, and 29 are patentable over the cited art.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in

view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully

requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending

claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any

way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney

of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Jolly

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Date 3/9/2006

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